

National News

For Kennedy, Privacy Ends, Politics Begins

By Adam Nagourney

Courtesy of Times Digest

On the day Caroline Kennedy declared she wanted to replace Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of the first people she called was the mayor of Buffalo. She told him she wanted to visit western New York and learn more about regional issues.

The mayor, Byron W. Brown, said he would welcome her. But he had a message for Kennedy, too: "I think upstaters are going to want an upstater on the ticket," he said.

The decision by Kennedy to end a highly private existence and enter politics presents a gamble on a national reputation she has cultivated in the 45 years since her father was assassinated.

She must overcome skepticism about her experience and credentials, and counter sentiment among some Democrats that her bid to begin her political career near the top of the ladder reflects a sense of entitlement.

These concerns are coming into sharp relief as Kennedy begins a carefully orchestrated rollout, with calls to political leaders early this week, and a trip upstate.

"Obviously she is a celebrity," said H. Carl McCall, the Democratic candidate for governor in 2002. "But I think the real issue here is, do you want someone who is a celebrity and comes from the right family and gives the sense that this is something for a person of privilege? Or do you go with someone who has paid some political dues, for whom you have a sense of how they might perform?"

"She's never been tested, and there are a lot of people out here who have been," he added.

For Kennedy, it's not only the inevitable (and history suggests surmountable) resistance from upstaters to a Manhattan lawyer who makes her home on Park Avenue, or the wariness of New York political leaders who expect a certain amount of deference and dues-paying.

Georgia Considers Change in Death-Penalty

By Robbie Brown

Courtesy of Times Digest

ATLANTA — For three and a half years, prosecutors in Georgia built their argument for sentencing Brian G. Nichols to death. With Nichols having admitted to killing four government employees in Atlanta, it seemed like an open-and-shut case.

But on Friday, three jurors failed to agree with nine others on a death sentence and therefore, under Georgia law, spared Nichols from execution. Without a unanimous decision, a judge instead gave him 11 life sentences, plus 485 years in prison.

Georgia legislators now are lining up to introduce bills eliminating the requirement that juries be unanimous in agreeing to a death sentence. Some lawmakers have long favored easier rules on death sentencing, but the Nichols sentence has given new urgency to their cause.

"Unfortunately, you have people who say they're willing to consider the death penalty, but when they get on a jury, it becomes clear that they're actually death penalty opponents," said Rep. Barry A. Fleming, a Republican who has sponsored efforts to revoke the unanimity rule.

Jurors in the Nichols trial said one juror was so opposed to the death penalty that she plugged her ears and worked on a crossword puzzle during the sentencing phase, said Paul Howard, the district attorney.

Legislators have not decided who will introduce the proposal to end unanimity or how many jurors' votes it would require for a death sentence. But if the proposal passes, Georgia will become the only state to allow non-unanimous juries to sentence defendants to death.

The federal government also requires a jury to be unanimous to impose death.



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IKE Weather

Today

High: 50

Low: 35

Sunrise: 0643

Sunset: 1646

Partly Cloudy



Tomorrow

High: 41

Low: 31

Sunrise: 0642

Sunset: 1648

Partly Cloudy



IKE Culinary Specialists Become Master Certified Food Executives

By MC3 Nathan Parde

5 Star Staff Writer

Culinary specialists aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) received training Dec. 9-12 and became Master Certified Food Executives (MCFE).

Edward Manley, president of the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA), came to Eisenhower to oversee and conduct four-day training. Sailors that successfully completed the training received three professional certifications that help their advancement. The certificates are also useful when applying for a position in the civilian world, said Manley.

"It closes the gap between a person who is trained in his profession within the military and their civilian counterpart," said Manley. "Potential employers outside of the Navy often do not know what you have learned in the Navy, so they won't hire you. Getting your certifications in a certain field gives you a credentials that the civilian world can recognize."



Culinary Specialist Seaman James Onuska removes a tray from the oven. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan Parde.

The first day of class introduced the basics of food safety. Topics discussed in this lesson included how to check bacteria levels in food and proper temperatures to eliminate contamination.

Training continued with the discussion of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP). This process follows a food product from its origin to its consumption. Manley explained that vegetables grown on a farm would be examined for types of pesticides used during its growth. Next, distribution

of those vegetables would be inspected; specifically how they were transported and unloaded. Then, storage and refrigeration would be considered before the sanitary issues of serving the food are addressed.

Culinary specialists take a three to six hour test. This evaluates their knowledge of their rating and the training they received.

The training was funded and sponsored by the Navy Credentialing Program, which provides civilian certifications to many different rates within the Navy.

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Sports Corner

Billups Is Giving the Nuggets a Great Deal

By Harvey Araton
— Courtesy of the Times Digest

DALLAS — Jason Kidd had that familiar, faraway look, the one that screams, what the heck am I doing here?

Maybe it was about being decisively outperformed by Chauncey Billups, his old Eastern Conference nemesis, in a convincing 98-88 victory by the surging Denver Nuggets over Kidd's Mavericks on Monday night at American Airlines Center.

Maybe it was his desultory role in the Dallas offense — a pass here, a pick there, before drifting outside for spot-up shots he couldn't make (0 for 5 from the field) or wouldn't take while Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Terry and, yes, J.J. Barea formed the creative core of a Mavericks offense held to 34.9 percent shooting by the new, defensively improved Nuggets.

Maybe it was the prospect of a trip that will take Kidd to East Rutherford, N.J., on Friday night — when he will be reminded of how pleased the Nets are with the Christmas-in-February deal that landed the emerging Devin Harris

and two No. 1 draft picks.

Kidd will swear on a stack of his own press clippings that he doesn't regret lobbying his way out of New Jersey for a run at a championship in Dallas, where he lost in the first round of the playoffs last spring. He will pledge allegiance to Nowitzki and to the Mavericks' owner, Mark Cuban, however much in doubt it is that his employment in Dallas will continue after this season.

Kidd, however, had nothing to say after his worst game of the season — 4 points, 5 assists — beyond body language. Removed late in the fourth quarter by Coach Rick Carlisle, he tore off a wristband, tossed it in frustration, dressed as quickly as he used to go end to end with his dribble and split.

No crime, certainly, in eluding the news media, but not exactly the brand of stand-up leadership a very grateful Nuggets coach, George Karl, was extolling Billups for down the hall.

"There's a presence to his presentation," Karl said of his new point guard. "He's a proud man but a humble man, a communicative man but a quiet man."

Bowl Championship Series Weekly Schedule

EagleBank Bowl	Wake Forest vs. Navy	Dec. 20, 11 a.m.
New Mexico	Colorado St. vs. Fresno St.	Dec. 20, 2:30 p.m.
St. Petersburg	South Florida vs. Memphis	Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m.
Pioneer Las Vegas	BYU vs. Arizona	Dec. 20, 8 p.m.
R+L Carriers New Orleans	Troy vs. Southern Miss	Dec. 21, 8:15 p.m.
San Diego Credit Union	TCU vs. Boise State	Dec. 23, 8 p.m.
Sheraton Hawaii	Hawaii vs. Notre Dame	Dec. 24, 8 p.m.
Motor City	Central Michigan vs. Florida Atlantic	Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Questions of the Day



BMR

(1) Define military courtesy?

EAWS



(2) How many conflagration stations does IKE have?

ESWS



(3) What should the fire main pressure be at the inlet side of the inline eductor?

Answers

- (1) An act or verbal expression of consideration or respect for others.
(2) Three, one for each hangar bay.
(3) 100 PSI or greater.

SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Seaman Taquia Stokes
Deck Department
Second Division

Seaman Taquia Stokes, 23, graduated from Dobson High School in Chandler, Ariz.

She joined the Navy in March 2008 and reported to IKE in July 2008. She became part of Deck Department.

She joined the Navy to travel the world and earn money for school.

"At first it was rough, trying to get used to everything," Stokes said. "But now it's pretty cool. I like it."

Aboard IKE, Stokes intends to earn her enlisted surface warfare pin and become fully qualified in all areas of her job in Deck Department.

After her time in the Navy, Stokes would like to train to become a pharmacist.

Russia's Election Monitors Shore Up Allies

By Clifford Levy
— Courtesy of Times Digest

ZHODINO, Belarus — The voting monitor began his rounds on Election Day here at Polling Place No. 7. "Issues? Violations?" he asked the poll workers, glancing around. They said no, so he left.

The monitor, Kholnazar Makhmadaliyev, breezed from one polling site ("What's up? Things O.K.?" to another ("Everything fine here?"), shaking a lot of hands, offering abundant compliments and drinking brandy with this city's mayor.

Such went Makhmadaliyev's stint on a large observer mission led by the Kremlin that concluded that Belarus, an ally of Russia, had conducted a "free, open and democratic"

parliamentary election in late September.

The Kremlin monitors' version of reality clashed with the one described by a European security group, whose own monitors dismissed the election as a sham tainted by numerous shortcomings, including vote rigging.

The monitors dispatched by the Kremlin did not report anything like that. Nor did they raise concerns about Belarus's security service, still called the K.G.B., which had exerted harsh pressure on the opposition, imprisoning several of its leaders and thwarting their campaigns. Or about state-controlled television broadcasts repeatedly branding opposition leaders as traitors.

Or, for that matter, about the final results: a sweep of every single seat in the 110-member Parliament by

supporters of President Aleksandr G. Lukashenko, often described as Europe's last dictator.

The Kremlin under Vladimir V. Putin has sought to bolster authoritarian governments that remain loyal to Russia, and these election monitoring teams — 400 strong in Belarus alone — are one of its newer innovations. They demonstrate the lengths to which the Kremlin will go to create the illusion of political freedom in Russia and other former Soviet republics, even though their structures of democracy have been hollowed out.

The monitors play a critical role in creating a democratic veneer, solemnly giving their customized assessments and formal reports, which are then promoted by the government-controlled media.

Food

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Sailors should check the credentials for their rating by logging into the Navy College Web site, said Manley.

"Eisenhower was the first aircraft carrier to conduct MCFE certifications aboard the ship. This sets a precedence for other Navy carriers to follow," said Manley.

"As the IFSEA military awards chairman and after speaking to the representative who came to Eisenhower last month to inspect for the May award, I can say that I am very impressed with Eisenhower." ★

Holiday Safety Tips

-Inform your chain of command on your travel plans.

-Use Operational Risk Management to make smart decisions.

-Understand and discuss the causes of motor vehicle mishaps.

-Use alcohol responsibly. If you decide to drink, do so in moderation and do NOT drink and drive.

-Buckle up.

-Pay close attention to home safety. The number of fires increases this time of year.

-Remember the sobering reality of suicides. It is the second leading cause of death in the Navy and is most prevalent during the holiday season.